TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

GAMBIA

(Republic of the Gambia)

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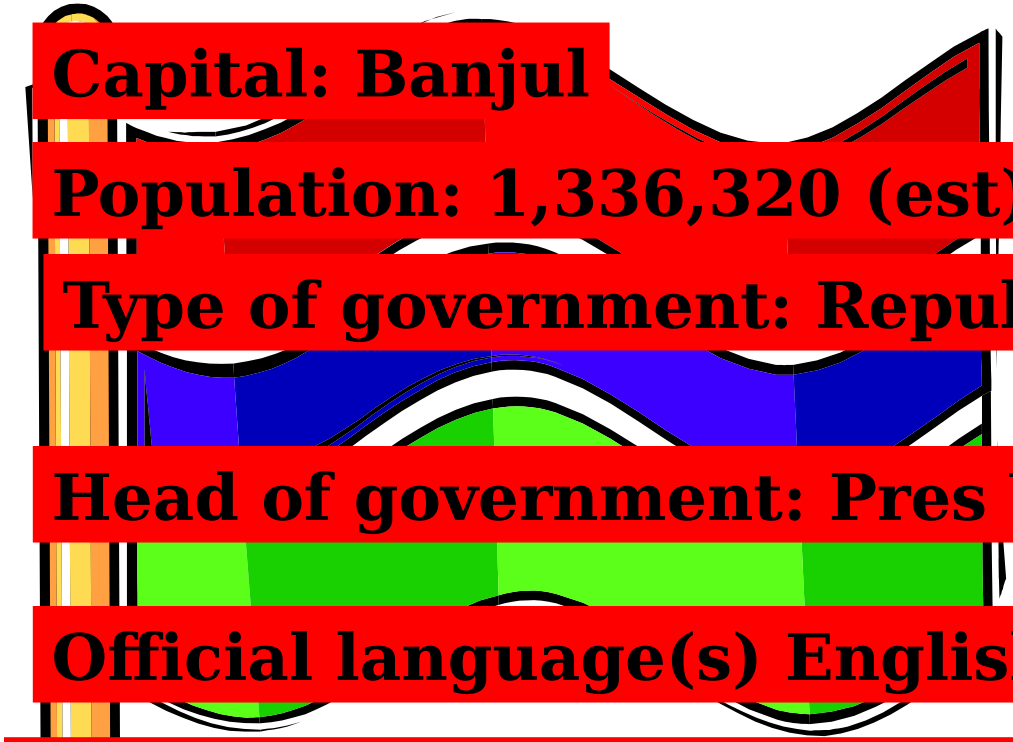
BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of the Gambia



Capital: Banjul

Population: 1,336,320 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: Pres Yahya A.J.J. Ja

Official language(s) English, Mandinka

Economy: Agriculture-based

Religions: Islam (90%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Banjul

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: Kairaba Avenue in Fajara, Banjul
Tel: 220-392-856/858 FAX: 220-392-475

Transportation: Public transportation: Fair.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passports, visas, and identification credentials. Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice. Identification cards and orders are required. Passports and visas are required. For official travel, no-fee passports are required.

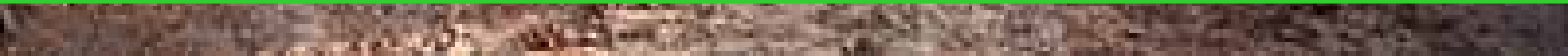
Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. Persons entering PCS, TDY, leave, or in transit who are sensitive to immunizing agents may enter if International Certificates of Vaccination are certified by medical authorities. If symptoms of active disease are present,

Duty-free entry for personal effects: jewelry (reasonable amount carried on person), used portable typewriter, cigarette lighter, and electric razor. Following items require duty and are limited to: 1 pound of cigars, 50 cigarettes, 1 pound of tobacco, and 1 quart of liquor. Camera, film, record player and records may be imported for temporary period not in excess of

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Facilities for tourism in the area of Banjul, the capital city, are good, but they are limited in availability and quality outside the capital. The Gambia has strict laws on the import/export of skin bleaching creams and some medications. Visitors arriving with substances containing hydroquinone, hydrocortisone, betamethasone, flucinonide, clobestatol or clobestatone are subject to fines up to $2000 and/or three years imprisonment.

The Amembassy observes US and local holidays. The Embassy is open Mon thru Thur at 0745-1650 hrs and on Fri 0745-1245 hours.



MONEY

Currency restrictions: Credit cards are readily accepted in hotels only. There are no currency restrictions.

Rate: Approximate: 12 Gambian Dalasi for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries.

Availability of medical services: Poor. Medical facilities are limited and some medicines are unavailable.

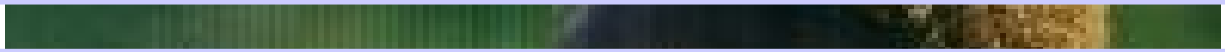
Medical Insurance: May not apply in Gambia. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: None Travelers should bring their own supplies of medicines. Americans living or traveling in The Gambia should be aware that an outbreak of meningitis has occurred in the region. The Gambia is considered a yellow fever-infected area.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid,yellow fever, influenza, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION



Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Gambia. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Boil or filter water and use canned milk. Wash fruits and vegetables. Eat at recommended places. Recommend anti-malarial precautions. Although The Gambia recently completed a transition from military to civilian rule, U.S. citizens should nonetheless avoid political gatherings or demonstrations and maintain security awareness at all times. Visitors should not photograph airports nor military installations and should be prepared to stop at all roadblocks or road checkpoints. Although the main roads are paved in the greater Banjul area, due to narrow, pot-holed, poorly lit streets, drivers and pedestrians should exercise extreme caution to avoid accidents. Almost all roads outside the capital are not paved, and traveling is difficult because of road

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Petty street crime is a problem in The Gambia. Travelers should be careful of pickpockets and the crowded market areas and on ferries. Travelers should not leave packages or luggage unattended in taxis.

The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to local police and to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

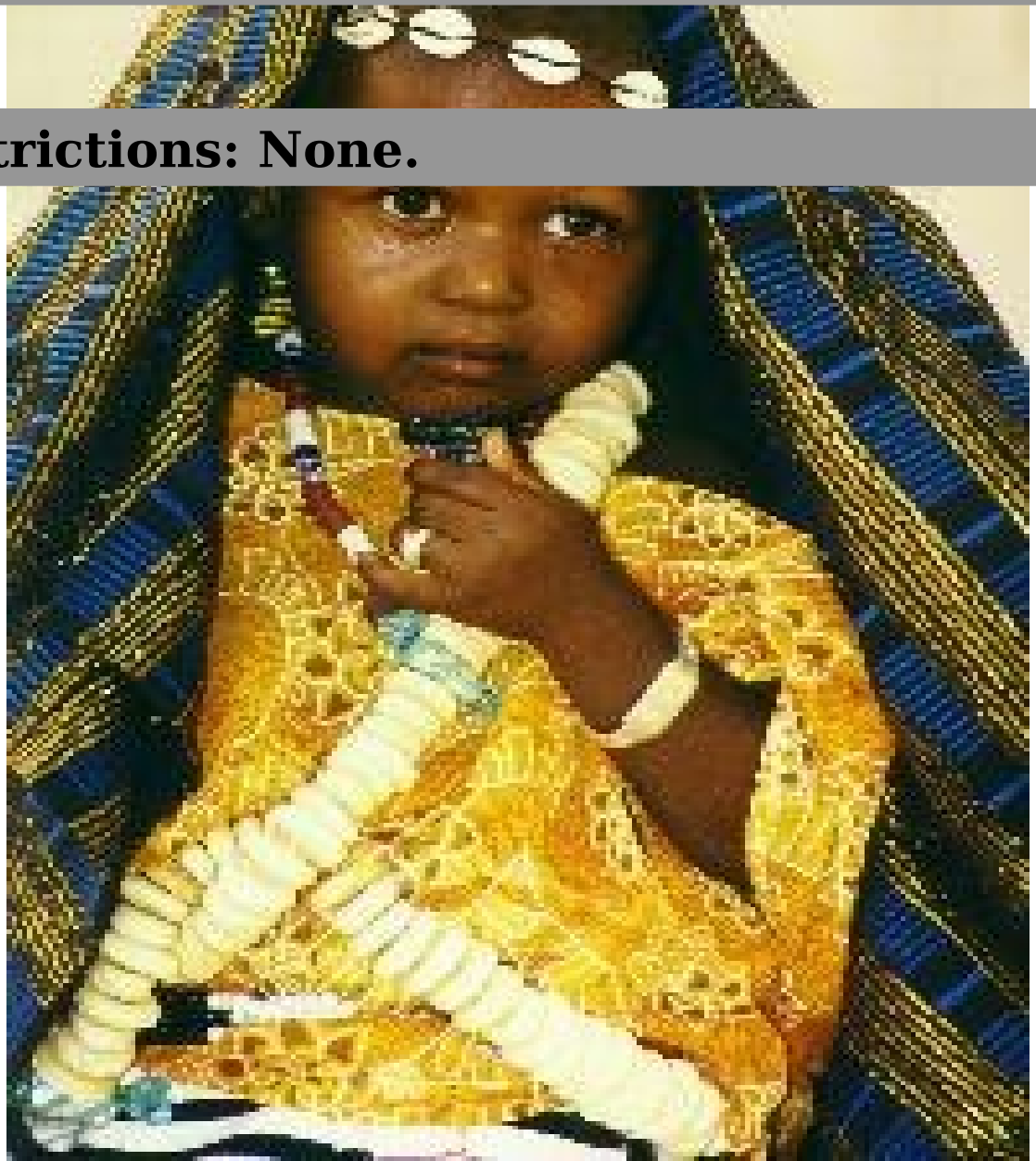
Gambia is strict on: Drugs and firearms.

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING



Uniform restrictions: None.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

GAMBIA